(b) whether orders have not been issued to concerned departments to ensure quick payment to all pensioners whose pension have been stopped for one reasons or the other; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The Pension Scheme was made applicable to those Cantonment Board Employees who retired after 1-5-76. Those who retired prior to 1-5-76 were paid Contributory Provident Fund and other terminal benefits as applicable to them. The Government had received a letter recommending extension of the Pension Scheme to those Cantonment Board Employees who retired prior to 1-5-76 from a Member of the Rajya Sabha. After considering the matter the Hon'ble Member was informed that this will not be possible.

(b) and (c) There are standing instructions to ensure quick disposal of cases related to grant of post-retirement benefits to the employees. The progress of timely release of pension to retired Cantonment Board employees is being monitored regularly.

Purchase orders for DMS boots

2566. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of purchase orders for supply of DMS boots and shoes issued by the wings of armed forces during the first six months of 1994-95;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cost analysis and installed capacity availability reported by DGQA in this regard has been completely ignored by the forces;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Central Government Undertakings are being excluded from getting such purchase orders from the defence forces;

(d) whether orders to Ordnance Equipment Factory have decreased; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN : (a) An order for quantity 2000 pairs of boots at the rate of Rs. 227.68 was placed by the Naval Headquarters on a private firm.

(b) the Naval Headquarters carry out their own cost analyses and capacity verification of the Firms before placing an order.

(c) No, Sir, Central Government Undertakings are free to participate in the tender and purchase orders are placed on them keeping in view rates quoted by them and the Government orders issued in this regard. According to the orders presently in force, if the price quoted by PSUs is within 10% of the lowest valid price bid, purchase preference may be granted to the Public Enterprise concerned provided it agrees to make supply at the lowest valid bid rate.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Shortcomings in MBT Arjun

2567. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd October, 1994 under the caption "Defence but Arjun is not ready for battle", and

(b) If so, the reasons for the Arjun tank still not meeting the requirement of the Army and the steps taken to remove the shortcomings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Army has already given its in-principle acceptance for induction of Main Battle Tank ARJUN for Service-use. Further exploitation trials by the troops on pre-production series ARJUN tank are in progress. The data generated and observations made by the user-service are continuously analysed to make the desired improvement, so that the production model is a state-of-the-art tank. ARJUN tank is expected to be productionised as soon as final go-ahead is given by the Army on completion of these trials.

Delay in procurement by Ministry of Defence

2568. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in

The Hindustan Times' dated 30th June, 1993 under the caption "Red-tapism 'bulldozes IAF safety steps";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether, due to red-tapism and inordinate delays in the procurement of items by the Ministry of Defence, difficulties are being created not only for the defence forces but to the nation as well;

(d) if so, the details of the projects where clearance were inordinately delayed in each of the last five years alongwith the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the steps taken to check such delay henceforth ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Procurements are made on the basis of well designed procedures which have to be adhered to. Final decision for induction of the equipment (bulldozer) was taken after detailed examination of all pros & cons of the proposal. Delay in the procurement or equipment was not allowed to affect flight safety as alternative arrangements to control growth of vegetation around runways were continuing.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Marketing of established brands by CSD

2569. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the military canteens located in Delhi such as Army Headquarters Canteen are marketing more of new brands than established items thereby exploiting the interests of the consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to give more attention towards the well established products than new products which are not substantially good;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring about changes in the existing rules, procedures etc. to allow the supply of reputed items on the inventory of the CSD(I) Bombay by the local authorised stockist and suppliers duly approved by the organisation concerned to ensure timely availability of the items for the benefit of the consumers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Military Canteens, including those located in Delhi, supply both established brands as well as new brands from items included in the Canteen Stores Department list of items.

(c) and (d) The Depot Managers of the Canteen Stores Department are already authorised to place orders and procure certain items by the suppliers in accordance with terms and conditions approved by CSD Head Office in Bombay. The inclusion of items in this category depends upon the arrangements of the suppliers, and on the existence of acceptable terms and conditions.

सोमालिया से भारतीय शांति-सेना को वापस बुलाना

2570. **श्री वी. नारायणसामी** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने सोमालिया में तैनात की गयी संयुक्त राष्ट्र शान्ति सेना में से भारतीय टुकड़ी को वापस बुलाने का निर्णय किया है क्योंकि वहां भारतीय जवानों की हत्या की जा रही है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो भारतीय टुकड़ी को वापस बुलाया जाना कब से आरम्भ होने की संभावना है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन): (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं । संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने सोमालिया से अपनी शांति सेना वापस बुलाने का निर्णय लिया है तदनुसार भारतीय सैनिकों को संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा की गई प्रबंध व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत वापस लाया जा रहा है । भारतीय सैनिकों को वापस लाने का कार्य चल रहा है ।